

***NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE POLICY DIRECTIVE 10-5  
OCTOBER 26, 2004***

***Operations and Services  
PUBLIC WEATHER SERVICES***

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**NOTICE:** This publication is available at: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/>.

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**OPR:** W/OS22 (A. Noel)

**Certified by:** W/OS (G. Mandt)

**Type of Issuance:** Routine.

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**SUMMARY OF REVISIONS:** This directive supersedes NWSPD 10-5, Public Weather Services, dated October 15, 2003. One major change was included: the Office of the Chief Information Officer roles and responsibilities in support of the Public Weather Services Program were added (new Section 3.3).

1. As the Nation grows, more segments of society are becoming increasingly dependent on information concerning the weather and weather hazards such as tornadoes, high winds, and winter storms. Timely and accurate weather forecasts and warnings are used by the public for critical decision-making and personal planning purposes. This directive governs the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Weather Service's (NWS) provision of public weather services to its customers and partners.

2. The objectives of the Public Weather Services Program are to provide public weather forecasts and warnings for the protection of life and property and to provide weather information for the Nation's economic well-being.

3. This directive establishes the following authorities and responsibilities:

3.1 The Office of Climate, Water, and Weather Services (OCWWS) will:

- a. Establish national policies and procedures for the provision of consistent NWS public forecast and warning services.
- b. Consolidate, analyze, and oversee national performance and effectiveness indicators of public weather services.
- c. Provide outreach to national customers to promote public weather services.

3.2 The Office of Science and Technology will:

- a. Plan, develop, demonstrate, and integrate scientific techniques and system capabilities for the Public Weather Services Program.
- b. Formulate and maintain a public weather services research and development plan.

3.3 The Office of the Chief Information Officer will:

- a. Manage, operate, and supply software and data support for operational systems essential to the dissemination of public warnings, forecasts, guidance and observational data.
- b. Procure, operate, administer and maintain communications networks.
- c. Ensure security for systems and data used to support the Public Weather Services Program.

3.4 The Office of Operational Systems will provide system engineering, software management, facilities engineering, communications, and logistical services to sustain operational weather systems supporting the Public Weather Services Program.

3.5 National Weather Service regional headquarters offices will:

- a. Ensure Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) are organized, trained, and equipped to fulfill the Public Weather Services Program.
- b. Provide technical and operational assistance.
- c. Provide public weather requirements to OCWWS.
- d. Develop supplements to procedural directives.
- e. Ensure WFOs comply with Public Weather Services Program directives and regional supplements.
- f. Evaluate performance and effectiveness of the public weather services.
- g. Review WFO geographic areas of responsibility in their region to improve the effectiveness and balance of warning and forecast assignments.

3.6 WFOs will:

- a. Provide public weather warnings, forecasts, statements, summaries, and related products for local service areas.
- b. Ensure public weather products are timely, accurate, and meteorologically consistent with surrounding WFOs.
- c. Provide customer outreach to promote and assess the success of their Public Weather Services Program.

3.7 The National Centers for Environmental Prediction will produce guidance and outlook and discussion products to support the Public Weather Services Program.

4. The NWS measures the effectiveness of the Public Weather Services Program using: Improvement over the Global Forecast System Model Output Statistics for maximum/minimum temperature and probability of precipitation for days one through seven; Tornado Warning and Severe Thunderstorm Warning lead time, probability of detection, and false alarm rates; and Winter Storm Warning lead time and probability of detection.

5. This Policy Directive is supported by the glossary of terms in Attachment 1. Procedural directives will be issued to implement this policy as needed and determined by the Director, Office of Climate, Water, and Weather Services.

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| Signed by                                       | October 12, 2004 |
| Brigadier General David L. Johnson, USAF (Ret.) | Date             |
| Assistant Administrator for Weather Services    |                  |

**Attachment 1**

**GLOSSARY OF TERMS**

Public Weather Services Program - The collective activities undertaken by NWS Headquarters, regional headquarters, and field offices (i.e., WFOs and the NCEP) to support and provide public weather services in the form of warnings, forecasts and associated products for the Nation.